

Kimblesworth and Plawsworth Parish Council

Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Kimblesworth and Plawsworth Parish Council held in the Community Centre, Nettlesworth, DH2 3PN, on Thursday 9 November 2023 @ 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors – Bruce, Burnip, Inman, Jackson, Rippon, and Walker.

Also in attendance – John Kelly (Clerk).

1. Welcome:

The Chair welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Apologies for Absence:

Cllrs Craig and Elley offered their written apologies.

Resolved: *Apologies noted.*

3. Disclosable Pecuniary Interests:

Cllr Jackson declared an interest in item 5(n).

4. Minutes of Council meeting – Ordinary Meeting 14 September 2023:

The minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of the Council held on 12 October 2023 and the minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 2 November 2023 were approved by the Council.

5. Parish Matters and on-going items:

a) County Councillors' Report

Councillor Wilson advised he will arrange a delegation from the parish council to meet Kevan Jones MP before the next parish council meeting. Cllr Jackson stated the trees still need to be cut at the rear of Woodland Terrace as they are covering the light and creating issues for the bin lorries. Cllr Waldock stated a review of the bus stops has been requested for this financial year. The park gate at Nettlesworth will be fixed by the end of November but the new equipment will not be in place until March/ April 2024. The overgrown path edging on the B6312 between Sacriston and Nettlesworth has been reported. The deadline for submissions for bids for Area Action Partnership funding (£10,000) with county councillors is near and the Ugly Lane playing field needs to be re-registered by KPPC. Therefore, Councillors Waldock and Wilson will now spend the money towards work at The Elms, Kimblesworth with Investing in Children. However, Councillors Waldock and Wilson commit to contributing £5,000 each from their councillor funds in 2024-25 towards the car parking, which gives KPPC time to resolve land registration issues.

Resolved: *Councillors Waldock and Wilson to update on all queries at the next meeting.*

b) Highways, paths, and road signage

Councillors questioned why DCC had not made residents aware of the extended road closure on the B6312. The Clerk advised work had begun on the PRoW at Plawsworth, with the edges cut back and the old path revealed. Councillor Wilson discussed the data from the recent speed wires at Nettlesworth. He is awaiting a response from police on the data before agreeing action with Durham County Council. Parish councillors said a safe crossing is needed on the B6312, near the school. It was commented that teachers park in the streets around the school. Councillor Wilson advised he will speak to the headteacher. Councillor Waldock confirmed DCC will clear the grass path (to reveal previous gravel) from Broadmires to the allotments, even though it is not on the route of the PRoW nearby. It was noted the signage at the A167 roundabout is still in disrepair. Councillor Wilson said DCC are aware.

Resolved: *Councillors Waldock and Wilson to update on all queries at next meeting.*

c) Primary School, Nettlesworth

Cllr Bruce advised that Durham County Council rejected a pre-application from the school for Section 106 grant money. Councillor Wilson advised he will assist the school directly, with their autism project and funding streams.

Resolved: *To note update.*

d) Community Centre Report

Cllr Rippon read a statement on concerns regarding the lease expiry. Cllr Walker advised the Lambton Estate lease offer continues to be considered and no further comment would be offered by PKCA until the lease was resolved.

Resolved: *To note update.*

e) Planning and Licence Applications

The following applications were discussed:

- DM/23/02909/LB, Southill Hall, Plawsworth (Damaged and defective stonework repair and replacement works to bay)

Resolved: *No comment to be made.*

f) Allotments

One plot is vacant. All rent is collected except one occupied plot and the vacancy. The Clerk has no concerns over the collection of the one occupied plot. No quotes had been received from contractors regarding the movement of the water tap or the resurfacing of the lane. Cllr Jackson advised the next inspections will take place around February before growing season.

Resolved: *To note all updates.*

g) Newsletter

The Clerk advised it is unlikely there will be a Christmas edition of the KPPC newsletter. It was suggested there could be a piece on the Miner's strikes of 1984-85. The Clerk asked that any articles be sent to him for inclusion.

Resolved: *Potential future items passed to Clerk.*

h) Christmas trees 2023

The Council agreed to purchase 10 sets of two metre squared net lights, at a cost of £29.99 per net, to place along the trees and bushes next to the community centre. The Clerk advised battery boxes and batteries will be required and the Council agreed (with budget previously agreed at £600 total for Christmas 2023-24).

Resolved: *Clerk to purchase 20 metres of net lighting and five battery boxes (one per four metres), and associated batteries.*

i) Election of vice-chair

Cllr Burnip proposed Cllr Rippon as vice-chair. Cllr Jackson seconded the motion. Council agreed to elect Cllr Rippon as vice-chair.

Resolved: *Agreed to the election of Cllr Rippon as vice-chair.*

j) Nomination of trustee to Plawsworth and Kimblesworth Community Association

Cllr Jackson nominated Cllr Bruce for the position of trustee to PKCA (as nominated by KPPC) and Cllr Inman seconded the motion.

Resolved: *Cllr Bruce nominated as trustee by KPPC to PKCA.*

k) Draft Budget 2024-25

The Clerk gave an overview of a suggested draft budget for 2024-25. The Clerk advised the budget will not be set until January 2024 and that is when the precept for 2024-25 will be agreed. The Clerk asked the Council to consider any requirements and risks for 2024-25 and to suggest them at the December meeting.

Resolved: *To note update.*

l) Defibrillator at the community centre

The Council discussed the recent issue regarding the defibrillator at the centre, where it was out of use due to the pads expiring. Cllr Bruce suggested the asset could be passed from the community association to KPPC, and the Clerk could be given delegated powers to replace parts. Cllr Inman suggested he could speak to the Chair at PKCA to discuss a way forward.

Resolved: *Chair to discuss a plan with the Chair of PKCA and report back to the next Council meeting.*

m) Salt bin at The Crescent

The Council agreed for the Clerk to arrange an assessment by Durham County Council for a salt bin at The Crescent. If the assessment declines a salt bin, the Clerk will place an item on a future council agenda for the Parish Council to agree the merit of funding a salt bin here. The Clerk was asked to report empty salt bins at Woodland Crescent and The Green. Cllr Bruce will check salt bins at Hillmeads, Boyntons and Kimblesworth.

Resolved: *Clerk to arrange assessment with DCC for The Crescent, Nettlesworth.*

[Cllr Jackson left the meeting].

n) Grants

The Council considered a grant application for £1800, from Mona Lisa Arts, for art classes held at the centre. A proposal was made for an award of £660 (room hire plus materials). An amendment was made for £1000. The amendment was not agreed but the original proposal was. The Clerk was asked to notify the applicant they can apply for further funding in 2024-25. The Clerk was also asked to request a signed copy of the Memorandum before making payment.

Resolved: *Grant of £660 awarded to Mona Lisa Arts.*

[Cllr Jackson rejoined the meeting].

o) Training

- None.

Resolved: *Nothing to resolve.*

p) Correspondence

- Resident interest in becoming a councillor.

Resolved: *Correspondence noted.*

[The chair suspended Standing Orders at 20.57].

6. Financial Matters:

a) Payments

Resolved: *The following payments were agreed (and invoices signed by the Chair):*

- (1) The sum of £142.48 be paid to J Kelly (Clerk service, 1st – 31st October), 13 hours.
- (2) The sum of £9.99 be paid to J Kelly (HP ink, September – increase due to inspection letters)
- (3) The sum of £143.21 be paid to G. O'Brien (admin, 1st – 31st October, 17 hours).
- (4) The sum of £600.00 be paid to Royal British Legion (poppies for lampposts).
- (5) The sum of £200.00 be paid to Shirley's Floral Arts (Remembrance Day)

b) Receipts

Resolved: *The following receipts were noted and will be signed by the Chair:*

- PAYE (to HMRC) October hours, November submission (£71.42)
- Printer subscription with HP - see item 6(a)2 above (£9.99 September)

c) Bank statements and direct debits

Resolved:

Statements checked:

- September 2023 (no. 168)

Direct debits (and standing orders) checked by the Chair and signed:

- HMRC - no payments on statement this month.
- Anglian Water T/A Wave – quarterly payment (£56.14)

d) Amend banking mandate!

The new Chair, Cllr Inman, signed the banking mandate to update the correspondence address for the account, and to add the chair as a signatory. Post redirection is in place until a successful mandate is in place with the Co-op. The Clerk will also obtain the signature of Cllr Craig (existing signatory) to complete the mandate.

7. Date of Next Meeting

14 December 2023 to commence at 7pm.

The meeting terminated at 21.01.

Chairman

Date

Initialled by Chairman_

2023-24 – November

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